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A LETTER FROM BISHOP SPANGENBERG TO REV. JOHN ROGERS,
OF PHILADELPHIA.

This letter was written in English by Bishop Spangenberg, and is addressed to the Pastor of the Moravian Church in Philadelphia. The original is preserved in a private collection of autographs.

BETHLEHEM, January 25, 1761.

My dear brother Rogers,

The last news I had from Carolina came by a letter of Br. Ettweins d. d. Nov. 20. a. c. He says therein twice, that all is well, both young and old, and mentions your daughter especially by name. Here is his letter to me, which I desire you will remit with the first opportunity.

Br. Post set out for Bethabara from Bethlehem the 22 m. c. With him I sent your letters, and many more. May the Lord be with him, and bring him home safe and well to Wachovia, and back again. He is to take his way by Litiz, where Br. Matthæus is to send with him what accounts he hath already in his hands for Bethabara.

I have wrote to Europe to Br. Johannes, on account of our settlement in Wachovia, and hoping that some Brethren and Sisters will come with Br. Nathaniel, next Spring, for Wachovia. I doubt not but a wagon will go there, and that with such an opportunity Johanna Salome* may come to Bethlehem. May the Lord order all things for good.

Inclosed is a letter to Br. Sam. Isles, who is now become a widower, and his Daughter an orphan. You can easily imagine that her case is harder than Johanna Salome's. She not having one of the sisters to take care for her. However the Father of orphans will bring about what is good for her. She is to come with her father as soon as the Brethren arrive in Antigua, who, a good while ago, were to go there from England. I pray, my dear Brother, forward the said letter to Br. Isles as soon as possible.

My poor Brethren and Sisters at Jamaica! I pity them very much on account of the loss they had lately with the vessel taken by a French privateer. It would be better for the French privateers to take something else, than the letters and other writings of the Brethren. However such is the case of our Times, till the Lord pleases to restore peace again.

* Rogers' daughter.

As for your endeavors in Philadelphia to acquaint many poor things with their Lord and Saviour, I know very well that this is a hard Task. The Genius of the People is as Horace says: *O cives! cives! querenda pecunia primum, virtus post nummos.* And when they set their minds upon religion, they will prefer the way of works, before the way of faith. For the way of works makes a shew, and People can say: what can we do? we are poor sinful creatures!

However I think a Pulpit in a city like Philadelphia is worth a great deal. There comes now one, and then another, to hear: and the Gospel being the power of God can't be without Blessings. But, my dear Heart, think of Corinth! think of Rome! Were the people better there than they are now at Philadelphia, and yet, by the Gospel, a fine flock was gathered there for our good Lord. Think of London! Think of Berlin! Think of Copenhagen! etc. What sort of people live there? The same as in Philadelphia: and yet fine congregations are actually there now. Let your Prayers and Tears go before your preaching. Let the words, which you speak, be sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb: and be sure you will bring one heart, and then another etc, to his wounds, and the enjoyment of his Blessings.

That our Dear Children in Philadelphia begin to taste the verses of our Hymns, is great joy to me. Go on, my dear Brother, with them; and improve that grace which, like a spark, is now in them. But pray, tell me, should not they meet oftener than once a week? Should not they come twice or three times at least in a week, to sing together, and to be spoke to?

If it be so, as you think, that the English will sooner be prevailed upon by the Gospel, whenever a fresh awakening, by his grace, shall begin, than the Germans, it will make me very glad. For I am extremely sorry, that so little has been done amongst the English, since the time the Brethren came to America. One young man, viz., John Levering, who is now in Jamaica, was gained from the English, and that is all. Old England hath given more fellow-labourers in one year, than America in twenty years, from the English Nation.

I think, however, the fault is not altogether in the English people residing in America. Not so much care hath been taken of them, as might have been done. Many would have made good

Brethren, had they come in Time out of the circumstances which kept them entangled. For what can become of them, when they continue in the Towns, where every Thing is apt to ruin them, even their nearest relations ?

I must conclude my letter, being

my D'r Br.

Yr affectionate Br.

JOSEPH.

P. S.

Many salutations to you from Br. Petrus, Lawatsch, my wife, etc.

Qu. 1.

How is it with the subscriptions ? Could not your share for the *Mitleidenheit* be sent ? I want to remit some money to Europe for that purpose.

Qu. 2.

Shady was one of the stewards ; whom do you propose in his place ?

Qu. 3.

Are all your People satisfied, if your communion-liturgy is quite English ? If they are, I am.